

Amendments to the Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention is directed to a DNA construct ~~formed from a fusion gene which includes a trait DNA molecule and a silencer DNA molecule. The trait DNA molecule has a length that is insufficient to impart a desired trait to plants transformed with the trait DNA molecule. The silencer DNA molecule is operatively coupled to the trait DNA molecule with the trait and silencer DNA molecules collectively having sufficient length to impart the trait to plants transformed with the DNA construct. Expression systems, host cells, plants, and plant seeds containing the DNA construct are disclosed. The present invention is also directed to imparting multiple traits to a plant comprising a first DNA molecule having a length insufficient to independently impart resistance to a virus to plants transformed with said first DNA molecule, wherein the first DNA molecule is from a viral coat protein gene and is at least 110 nucleotides in length. The construct also comprises a second DNA of at least 400 nucleotides in length, which is coupled to the first DNA molecule so that the first and second DNA molecules collectively achieve post-transcriptional silencing and impart resistance to the virus. Alternately, the DNA construct can comprise a plurality of DNA molecules each of which is at least 110 nucleotides in length and from a viral gene, wherein the plurality of DNA molecules are at least 510 nucleotides in length.~~